



On Campus

A monthly publication for the faculty and staff of Greenfield Community College

February 1991

It's a major rewrite for Day-DCE, accounting, payroll computer programs

If you thought that this fall's shift of a number of Day Division courses to the Division of Continuing Education was confusing, it was doubly so for GCC's administrative computers. A major reprogramming project to reflect the changes in registration and billing that became necessary under the new system is requiring more than 200 programming changes. While not yet finished, **Sylvia Carey**, supervisor of the administrative computer center, reports that the project is "coming along very well" and should be completed by the end of March.

One big change that had to be made was the creation of a billing system for DCE, which, unlike the Day Division, has always been a "pay-as-you-go" program. The new system also needs to keep track of whether a course is Day Division or DCE, because, notes **Bob Schilling**, director of information systems, "the money goes in different directions." DCE tuition is kept at the college, while most of the Day Division tuition money goes to the state. Financial aid rules are different for Day and DCE courses, and this, too, must be reflected in the new computer program.

A major revamping of the college's accounting system is also underway. The job actually began in June, but it had to be postponed as the Day-DCE reprogramming project took priority. The accounting project is part of an ongoing effort to streamline the budget process by converting the college's accounting system to a cost-center one. This will provide each department with greater control over (and responsibility for) its own budget. Currently, all funds are placed in single major accounts, with a limited identification of what belongs to each department,

says Schilling. This has made it difficult to determine how much a department or service is costing and if it is cost effective. Under the new approach, all funds (except payroll) will be broken down under each department, or cost center.

In between these projects, the college payroll system has had to be updated. "One of the things that challenges the college's programmers," says Schilling, "is that changes in state and federal regulations force us to shift our priorities." The state has begun a program under which employees can contribute to a tax-sheltered child care fund, for example, and Information Systems has had to rewrite the payroll system to provide the tracking for that fund.

"We seldom receive much advance notice on projects like these," Schilling says, "though typically there's a deadline to meet. In this case, we found

out about the change in early December, and the system had to be in place by January 1."

This is the second year that Information Systems has been processing federal 1099 tax forms for college employees. This has meant more work for the programmers as well, as they have had to convert records from the college accounting system's July 1-June 30 fiscal year to the calendar year used for tax purposes.

Other major programming projects for Information Systems include renovating the student transcript files (to which alumni records will be added), and developing a program to track students' extracurricular and leadership activities. A long-range project to convert the college's Cobol software programs to a relational database is in the planning stages, and could take up to several years to complete.

Marketing committee reviewing GCC's image and publications

As part of GCC's renewed marketing efforts, a committee has been meeting regularly since early November to discuss a range of issues affecting the college's public image. Those issues include the ongoing development of such publications as the catalog, program brochures and newsletters; the creation of an attractive information packet for visitors; arranging an advertising program in the media; and enhancing the appearance of the main lobby.

The committee hopes to develop common procedures and create a consistent look for GCC publications while determining where best to allocate limited financial resources.

The committee is chaired by **Russell Powell**, director of marketing and public relations. Its members are **Tom Boisvert**, assistant director of the media center and professor of media studies, **Don Brown**, director of admissions, **Margaret Craig**, director of the nursing program, **Bob Keir**, dean of Continuing Education, **Lynne Morris**, staff assistant for the Office of Academic Affairs, **John Palmer**, director of athletics and coordinator of alumni relations, **Dave Patrick**, counselor, and **Merryl Sackin**, director of student activities.

A second committee, chaired by Registrar **Larry Dean**, is preparing a
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People

Lynn Benander, former coordinator of the Math Assistance Program, **Linda Cavanaugh**, professor of mathematics, and **Ira Rubenzahl**, assistant dean for Grouping III, co-authored the article, "Ideas in Practice: A New Equation in Developmental Mathematics," which appeared in the Fall 1990 issue of the *Journal of Developmental Education*. The article described problem-solving skills and group confidence- and communication-building exercises in developmental mathematics.

David Charbonneau of Wendell began work as a computer operator for the Office of Information Systems on January 7. He has a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, where he worked as supervisor of the second shift of the administrative computer center for the past four years. David's extension is 289.

Hannia Gonzalez is the new Math Assistance Program coordinator. She has a bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College, and is currently pursuing graduate work at the University of Massachusetts. She was a part-time instructor at GCC this fall, teaching two sections of Math 100, and taught in the basic math program for the Scientific Reasoning Research Institute at UMass for the past two years. A resident of Northampton, Hannia can be reached at extension 221.

Marketing

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wide-ranging statistical profile of GCC for visual presentation. The profile will feature an array of graphs and maps about GCC's student body, funding sources and enrollment trends, as well as demographic information about the region. The profile will be adapted for different audiences requiring information about the college, and should be ready sometime this spring. The committee's other members are **Hyrum Husky**, dean of students affairs, **Bob Keir** and **Russell Powell**.

Carolyn Nims, professor of English and English as a foreign language, left for Guadalajara, Mexico on January 11 to teach a master's degree-level course in English as a second language to 30 teachers at The American School in Guadalajara. The 36-hour course was held from January 11 to January 19. Nims taught a similar course to teachers at The American School in Monterrey, Mexico, last January. The courses are part of a Framingham State College teacher's program.

Krisi Raymond has been named secretary of the Learning Assistance Center, where she has worked on a temporary basis since September. Krisi is a graduate of Skidmore College, and is beginning an MBA program at the University of Massachusetts this semester. A native of California who previously worked for a winery in Napa Valley, Krisi now lives in Northampton. Her extension is 221.

Calendar

Sunday, January 27

Alumni celebration to kick off 1991 and the reinvigorated alumni association. At various sites around campus, from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday, February 1

Deadline for all changes for 1991-92 academic year college catalog, to curriculum committee.

Saturday, February 9

A lecture, "The History of Black People in New England," by John Bracy, professor of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts, will be held in the North Gallery. The event, sponsored by the Pioneer Valley Institute in conjunction with its special photography exhibit, "Standing Alone: African-Americans in New England, 1881-1907," will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The exhibit, in honor of Black History Month, features more than 75 photographs by the Howes brothers of Ashfield that document the presence of black residents in the Pioneer Valley and New England.

Wednesday, February 13

Humanities Division meeting, at noon in Room S318A.

Friday, February 15

Deadline for the March issue of *On Campus*. Send items to Russell Powell, director of public relations.

Wednesday, February 20

GCC-MUG (GCC Macintosh Users Group) meeting, at 2 p.m. in Room N220. Topic will be "New Mac Models" (LC, Classic, Si). All staff and faculty are welcome. For information, contact Lee Webster at ext. 325.

Friday, February 22

Deadline for submission of applications for Staff Development Committee's next funding period, at noon. See your division representative for more details.

Tuesday, February 26

The National League for Nursing accreditation team will be on campus to review the nursing program for reaccreditation for the next eight years, through February 28.

March 7, March 14 and March 21

"Changing Communities: Toward the Year 2000." An exploration and discussion of the impact of immigration, past and present, and changing populations in the Pioneer Valley. Three sequential workshops from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. **March 7:** Historical overview of immigration to the USA. **March 14:** Current trends and experiences in immigration. **March 21:** Working with a changing population. At GCC--details next month.